

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 15, 16, 26, and 53 through 83 are pending, with Claims 15, 26, 53, 66, 69, 71, 78, 81, 82, and 83 being independent. It will be appreciated that Claims 15, 16, and 26 have been presented as amended in the April 11, 2003 Preliminary Amendment. Claims 1 through 14, 17 through 25, and 27 through 52 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 15 and 26 have been amended. Claims 53 through 83 have been added.

Applicants gratefully wish to thank the Examiner and Supervisory Patent Examiner for extending the courtesies of granting and conducting on September 25, 2003, a personal interview with Applicants' representative. At the interview, the Examiners and Applicants' representative discussed the outstanding rejections, which are respectfully traversed, as well as proposed new claims.

The Abstract was objected to for containing two paragraphs. This objection is respectfully traversed, and is submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of the Abstract in a manner believed to avoid the grounds of objection.

Claims 15 through 17, 26, and 27 were objected to and indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. All objections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the rewriting of Claims 15 and 26, as set forth in the April 11, 2003 Preliminary Amendment, in independent form.

Claims 1 through 14, 18 through 25, and 28 through 33 were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 over U.S. Patent Nos. 4,866,661 (de Prins), 6,218,942 B1 (Vega, et al.), 6,170,285 B1 (Huffman, et al.), 5,285,041 (Wright), 3,861,433 (Schier, et al.),

5,117,407 (Vogel), 6,305,609 (Melzer, et al.), and 5,930,766 (Gibb). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 53 and 81 recite, inter alia, RFID in combination with a control unit that is configured to prevent a user from accessing the storage in accordance with the temperature.

Claims 66, 69, 71, and 82 variously recite, inter alia, RFID in combination with a comparing the time (how much time the object has spent in the area (Claims 66, 69, and 71) or how much time an object corresponding to the RFID tag has spent in an area (Claim 82)) to a predetermined amount of time.

Claims 78 and 83 recite, inter alia, RFID in combination with determining whether the object has been recalled.

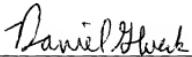
However, as discussed at the interview, Applicants respectfully submit that none of de Prins, Vega, et al., Huffman, et al., Wright, Schier, et al., Vogel, Melzer, et al., and Gibb, even in the proposed combinations, assuming, arguendo, that the documents could be combined, disclose or suggests at least the above-discussed combination of claimed features as recited, inter alia, in Claims 53, 66, 69, 71, 78, and 81 through 83. It is further respectfully submitted that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited documents that would lead one having ordinary skill to arrive at such features.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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